

Fair Access Committee Meeting Minutes
March 9, 2023, 6:30 p.m.
Town Hall

Attendees: Link Hoewing, Sarah Paksima, Kevin Schramm, Adam Sroka, Ed Reed, Jim Brown

Adoption of Minutes from February, 2023 Meeting – Unanimous Vote

Marilyn Balcombe attended meeting and briefed Fair Access about budget deliberations. She is fighting for a Student Health and Wellness Center which includes both health and mental health services but has been told Poolesville will only get Wellness Center. Eight high schools have full funding for Wellness Center, including Crown which is not even built yet but PHS has only planning money. Marilyn pushing as well for clinic space to be included in the new Community Center. Marilyn urged us to make funding for community center priority in next FY2025 budget.

Link and Jim updated Committee on Monday, March 6th with White's Ferry Committee call. Upside was that Maryland DOT Head was on call. Downside was that no offer has been made to Virginia landowner that is in line with her basic demands. Media Coverage continues to be strong including MyMCMedia and WAMU/

Committee agreed we may need to hold another rally. Link and Jim will press for meeting with Chris Conklin, County DOT head. Committee also agreed a letter should be send to the Governor about White's Ferry. Link will draft and send.

Link discussed the operating budget which is likely to include a \$300 million increase for MCPS supposedly aimed at teacher pay and teacher recruitment. Fair Access has traditionally not weighed in operating budget issues but has been contacted by MCPS who wants to brief us. Link will work on scheduling.

Briefings/Meetings with County Council Members

- Locals Meeting with Kate Stewart on March 17
- Briefing with Public Health Officer Kisha Davis – March 30 with WUMCO
- Marilyn Balcombe/Laurie-Anne Sayles may attend HMD March 15th Event
- Transportation and Environment Committee Chair Evan Glass sponsoring hearing on White's Ferry – Possible testimony by Fair Access

Media Update

New Video done by Fovndry about Fair Access and White's Ferry to be sent via Muster to our supporters, posted on social media sites, sent to all Council, County Executive, District 15 leaders.

Web Site to be updated working with Niles Anderegg. Also, YouTube Fair Access channel has not been updated for a long time and will get that updated.

Meeting adjourned at 7:40 p.m.